

October 9, 2006

[Handwritten signature]

FDIC – San Francisco Regional Office
Regional Director John F. Carter
25 Jessie Street at Ecker Square, Ste. 2300
San Francisco, CA 94105

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RE: Change in Bank Control Notice and The Home Depot

Dear Mr. Carter,

Our company manufactures interior residential door products for the home improvement industry and has been in business for 140 years. With over 700 employees in four states, the health of the home improvement industry has a significant impact on our success. Home Depot, in particular, has been a pioneer in this industry bringing immeasurable value to its customers.

I understand that The Home Depot is attempting to acquire EnerBank USA, an ILC that lends homeowners money for home improvements. The way we see it, The Home Depot acquiring and growing EnerBank will be good for the entire home improvement industry. It will help homeowners invest in their homes as well as help contractors do more business. And if the home improvement market grows, then our company grows and our employees benefit.

ILC's mean that commercial companies like The Home Depot can offer innovative financial service ideas that help consumers and businesses. Having competition create fresh approaches is a much better idea than erecting regulatory barriers to limit entrepreneurial innovation. It doesn't make sense to change the rules to prevent companies like The Home Depot from owning ILC's.

In our opinion, the FDIC should make ILC approval decisions based on each application's merits. If a company like The Home Depot has the financial resources to support an ILC proposal that helps consumers and drives economic activity, the FDIC should approve it.

Our recommendation is that current ILC policies not be changed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

[Handwritten signature of Sam Bell Steves II]
Sam Bell Steves, II
President

SAM BELL STEVES II
PRESIDENT

STEVES & SONS

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